

Beste, J. Family

Miss Armstrong, librarian of the Indiana State Teachers College, gave the following reference:

"Essay Index, 1948, indexes Francis Thompson's book, Literary Criticisms, in which he mentions R. H. Beste as translator of the French book Rondeaulx, translated from the Black Letter, French ed. of 1527.

Taken from Indiana Magazine of History. Vol. I. pp126-127

An Englishman named Beste, who, with his family, traveled through here early in the fifties, describes his trip from Terre Haute to the lake and gives interesting glimpses of the people. Being an Englishman of position this traveler could not understand the rather brusque anti-aristocratic notions which frequently shocked and pained him. The children, according to him, were independent and pert, while their elders were inordinately jealous of their doctrine of equality and rights, and he dwells with some severity on their rudenesses and crudenesses. Among other things, he mentions that the chewing of "Burgandy pitch" was a universal habit among the women.

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE



J. Richard Beste

Taken from Greater Terre Haute and Vigo County by C. C. Oakey. Vol. I pp104-106

The Terre Haute House was built by Chauncey Rose in 1840, and was opened by Theron Barnum, of Baltimore, who conducted it about a year. It was a fine hotel but unprofitable. In 1841 it was closed, to remain so for eight years. The carpets were rolled up and packed in iron-bound boxes, and the linen and plate, etc., stored in rooms. It was finally opened by Mr. Buntin, and began a remarkable history as a hostelry where many famous men have been entertained. At the old house boarded the best people of the town. D. S. Danaldson and wife and Mr. and Mrs. D. Deming lived there as brides and grooms. The dining room was formerly on the Seventh street side, and across the court were the rooms occupied by J. Richard Beste, the English gentleman who included in his unique book a most interesting account of Terre Haute.

No better account of the Table d'hote at the Prairie House, in 1851, can be given than that by Mr. Beste, who with his wife and eleven children enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. Buntin. It was a June Sunday, and Mr. Beste had just arrived. The Bestes were Roman Catholics.

Mr. Beste's description of Terre Haute in the summer of 1854 begins with the Prairie House.

Taken from Indiana Magazine of History. Vol. XII p269

A description of one of the canal boats is given by Mr. Beste on the occasion of his departure from Terre Haute in August, 1851.

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*Beste, J. Richard*

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February 16, 1951

Miss Florence Crawford, Librarian  
Emmeline Fairbanks Memorial Library,  
Terre Haute, Indiana.

Dear Miss Crawford:

I am enclosing copy of my letter to Mr. R. E. Banta and his reply.

Can you give us any information on J. Richard Beste, Esq?

The information Mr. Banta has given us is of course all included in  
the book itself which I have read.

We would be very grateful to you for any information.

Very sincerely,

*Mary Verhoeff*

Mary Verhoeff, Vice President and Chairman  
Library Committee.

*Dear Miss Verhoeff*

*The enclosed information will not help you very much, but it is all I am able to find. Mr. Beste's book is quoted frequently but no information is given about the man.*

*You were very fortunate in obtaining the book as it is very scarce -*

*I receive Mr. Banta's catalog but I missed that item -*  
*However we have 2 sets -* *Sincerely, Yes*



COPY

Beste, J. Richard

Feb 5, 1951

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Mr. R. E. Banta,  
Book Dealer and Publisher,  
Crawfordsville, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Banta:

Can you give us any data on J. Richard Beste, Esq., who wrote The Wabash or Adventure of an English Gentleman's Family in the Interior of America, London, 1855, which we bought from you recently? We find it a most interesting and informative book, but can find nothing about the author in the usual reference books. We would like very much to file something about the author with our publication. Can you also tell us whether or not he wrote other books.

We would be very indebted to you for any information you can give us.  
The book as you know once belonged to Eugene Field.  
Very sincerely yours

Mary Verhoeff, Vice President  
Chairman of the Library Com/

Mr. Banta's reply

Dear Miss Verhoeff:

I hope you will pardon this informal reply, but all the mail, orders, packages, etc., which were held up by the railroad strike and storm have arrived at once! Though we have an extra typist in, I can't get any letters typed - and probably won't be able to do so for a couple of days more!

Re. J. Richard Beste: When we started work on Indiana Authors and Their Books I checked on him sufficiently to learn that he was in our state for only the short period the text of his book indicates and was thus not eligible for inclusion. I therefore made no further search and have no information except that he was an Englishman gentleman, who planned to invest in Indiana land and settle here; that he found the "sickly" season unbearable, that he lost a child here and that he departed.

However Miss Florence P. Crawford (Librarian) Emmeline Fairbanks Memorial Library, Terre Haute, Indiana,

may very well have a file on Beste and will be pleased to send you what information she may have if you request it. Unlike many Public Library people, Miss Crawford has an intelligent interest in the local scene.

With best regards to you and your associates,

Sincerely,

R. E. Banta.